

predecessors' practice and signed both bills. The substantive effect would have been the same as it is today.

But that is not what the President chose to do. So we are here today, as the Congress, to deal with the first veto issued by President Obama.

Is it a veto based over substantive policy disagreements like President Bush's veto of stem cell legislation, or President Clinton's veto of legislation lifting the arms embargo for Bosnia and Herzegovina?

No, it is not. It is a veto that simply uses a now moot piece of legislation to re-ignite a battle between the legislative and executive branches dating back to the Nixon administration, a battle that the courts have generally sided in favor of the legislative branch.

I hope that in the future the President will exercise his veto power on substantive issues important to the American people such as vetoing bills that continue us on a path of reckless government spending.

Mr. OBEY. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

The question is, Will the House, on reconsideration, pass the joint resolution, the objections of the President to the contrary notwithstanding?

In accordance with the Constitution, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings will be postponed.

□ 1045

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later today.

SUPPORTING CONTINUED POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN UKRAINE

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 981) supporting continued political and economic development in Ukraine.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 981

Whereas in 1991, Ukraine re-established its independence, and began the process of developing democratic institutions and a market economy;

Whereas the Ukrainian people bravely demonstrated their desire for a free, democratic, and prosperous country through non-violent protest during the 2004 Orange Revolution;

Whereas the United States and Ukraine have a strong relationship, as evidenced by the United States-Ukraine Charter on Strategic Partnership, signed in December 2008

by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice with the objective of expanding cooperation on defense, trade, energy, democratic development, and cultural exchange;

Whereas during the July 2009 visit of Vice President Biden to Kyiv, the United States and Ukraine agreed to create the Strategic Partnership Commission to help implement the Charter, which held its inaugural meeting in Washington, DC, on December 9, 2009, during the visit of the Ukrainian Foreign Minister;

Whereas a strong, sovereign, independent, democratic, and economically prosperous Ukraine is important to the interests of the United States and to achieving peace, prosperity and stability in Europe;

Whereas Ukraine has been a staunch partner of the United States and NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) allies, as demonstrated by Ukraine's participation in the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan and the NATO Training Mission in Iraq and by NATO's declaration at the Bucharest Summit in April 2008 that Ukraine will become a member of the Alliance;

Whereas the United States and the European Union provide assistance to help Ukraine foster peace and security, strengthen its democratic institutions, further economic growth, and counter HIV/AIDS and other deadly diseases;

Whereas the United States, the United Kingdom, and Russia gave security assurances to Ukraine in the Budapest Memoranda of December 5, 1994, following Ukraine's commitment to eliminate all nuclear weapons from its territory and its accession to the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as a non-nuclear weapons state as well as the entry into force of the START Treaty;

Whereas the Joint Statement on the Expiration of the START Treaty issued by the United States and Russia on December 4, 2009, affirmed that "the assurances recorded in the Budapest Memoranda will remain in effect after December 4, 2009";

Whereas, as Vice President Biden stated when he was in Kyiv, the effort to reset the United States relationship with Russia "will not come at Ukraine's expense," and "the more substantive relationship we have with Moscow, the more we can defuse the zero-sum thinking about our relations with Russia's neighbors.;"

Whereas Ukraine and the Ukrainian people have suffered from the world financial crisis, and the government has sought and received assistance from international financial institutions, but still needs to overcome internal political and economic stalemates that prevent it from fulfilling its requirements and hinder its ability to achieve greater financial stability;

Whereas Ukraine will hold a presidential election on January 17, 2010, with a possible run-off election on February 7, 2010, if needed;

Whereas the initial 2004 presidential elections in Ukraine were marred by widespread irregularities, including fraud, intimidation, falsification of results, and media bias; and

Whereas it is vital for Ukraine's democratic development that the 2010 elections be free, fair, transparent, and untainted: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) reaffirms the strong relationship between the United States and Ukraine, and encourages continued efforts to implement the provisions of the United States-Ukraine Charter on Strategic Partnership;

(2) expresses its support for the efforts of the Ukrainian people to consolidate democratic institutions, rule of law, respect for human rights, and economic reforms;

(3) recognizes the suffering of the Ukrainian people due to the downturn in the world economy, and supports measures by the international financial institutions to assist Ukraine;

(4) urges all parties in Ukraine to seek resolution of disputes and to take active measures to enable necessary political and economic reforms;

(5) urges the Government of Ukraine and all political parties to ensure that the 2010 election is conducted freely, fairly, transparently, and without manipulation;

(6) encourages the Government of Ukraine and all political parties to welcome the participation of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and other international election monitors, cooperate fully with them, and provide them unimpeded access to all aspects of the election process; and

(7) reiterates its enduring support and friendship for Ukraine and the Ukrainian people.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. TANNER) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This Sunday, Ukrainians will go to the polls to elect a new President. The successful conduct of these elections is important to our country, the United States. As Vice President BIDEN said during his visit to Kiev last summer, "we consider Ukraine to be a vital European partner for advancing stability, prosperity, and democracy on the Continent."

Six years ago, the Orange Revolution demonstrated the Ukrainian people's desire for freedom, democracy, and prosperity. Since that time, Ukraine has made great strides in developing a vibrant civil society, an open and free press, and a government accountable to its citizens. We welcome the government's registration of over 450 international observers for the elections, including from the OSCE and the International Republican Institute. We would take this means and opportunity to urge all parties in the elections to cooperate fully with the observers and ensure the elections are conducted without manipulation.

The United States and Ukraine have a strong bond, not least due to the fact that over 1 million Americans trace their roots back to Ukraine. These ties were solidified in the Charter on Strategic Partnership, which was signed in December of 2008 and which outlined numerous areas of engagement and cooperation. Last month, the Strategic

Partnership Commission held its first meeting here in Washington during the visit of the Ukrainian Foreign Minister.

Madam Speaker, Ukraine has been a key partner in the efforts of the Transatlantic Alliance to ensure international security, contributing forces to the NATO mission in Afghanistan and training mission in Iraq. In addition, on December 16, Ukraine formally agreed to allow the transit of cargo through its territory to support the NATO ISAF operations in Afghanistan. Access to the landlocked country of Afghanistan is vital, and we applaud Ukraine in assisting to turn the tide against the Taliban and prevent safe haven for al Qaeda. NATO has made clear that Ukraine will become a member of the Alliance at some point, if it so desires.

Following the 60th anniversary of the NATO summit in Strasbourg-Kehl, I visited Kiev, Ukraine, as chairman of the U.S. delegation to NATO and as president of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly to underline NATO's ongoing commitment to Ukraine's process of Euro-Atlantic integration. While meeting with the leaders of Ukraine, I expressed the conviction that NATO's door should remain open and encouraged the implementation of reforms necessary to bring this integration to fruition.

In order for Ukraine to remain on this positive path of political development and Euro-Atlantic integration, it is critical that this upcoming election be free, fair, and untainted by the fraud and irregularities that beset the 2004 polls.

Also, we recognize that Ukraine, like much of the world, has suffered greatly from the global financial crisis. Unfortunately, political divisions have hampered Ukraine's effort to overcome this crisis and to implement the reforms necessary to cement its progress on the road to prosperity. These elections are particularly important to ensure the Ukrainian Government has a clear mandate from its people that would enable it to carry out the difficult decisions necessary to put the country on such a path.

Madam Speaker, given the importance of Ukraine as a vital friend and strategic partner of the United States, I would urge support for this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of House Resolution 981, introduced by Chairman BERMAN, and expressing our support for the continued political and economic development of Ukraine.

Almost 20 years have passed since the Ukrainian people gained their independence by breaking free from the oppressive authoritarian Soviet communist regime. Despite continuing challenges, both internal and external, Ukraine has made significant progress

in establishing a democratic political system and implementing market-based economic reforms. Since becoming an independent state, Ukraine has evolved into an increasingly important partner for the United States and for our European allies.

Ukraine's participation in the international mission in Afghanistan and in the NATO training mission in Iraq are examples of contributions that Ukraine has made and is making in its effort focused on promoting stability and defeating Islamic extremists. In recognition of Ukraine's commitment, the NATO heads of state at their Bucharest summit in April, 2008, agreed to and declared Ukraine will become a member of the NATO Alliance in the future. In December, 2008, then-Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice signed the U.S.-Ukraine Charter on Strategic Partnership, which aims to expand cooperation between our two countries on issues relating to democracy, defense, energy, and trade.

Significant challenges continue to confront Ukraine, including serious financial troubles it now faces as a result of the global financial crisis. One very serious challenge to the stability of Eastern Europe, as well as the future independence and prosperity of Ukraine, lies in the apparent interest on the part of some in neighboring Russia to ensure that Ukraine is held within a sphere of influence dominated by Russia. It's important to Ukraine, to Europe, and to the transatlantic community that Russia refrain from any effort to provoke instability by fomenting territorial divisions, as it did in Georgia, or interfere in Ukraine's domestic policies and politics, either overtly or through less visible corrupt activities.

In the wake of the Russian invasion of Georgia in August, 2008, such concern over Russian intentions toward Ukraine is no small matter. The Kremlin needs to accept the right of Ukraine to its independence and to its right to live as a peaceful political democracy free of intimidation. The United States has a strong interest in seeing the rise of a sovereign, free, democratic, and prosperous Ukraine. The presidential elections scheduled to take place next week in Ukraine need to be conducted in a free and fair manner. The victor in those elections needs to lead Ukraine in a democratic and noncorrupt manner in order to solidify the hard-won progress already made by the Ukrainian people.

I urge my colleagues to render their full support for this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, as an original cosponsor of this resolution, I stand in full support and in strong friendship of Ukraine and her people.

In a region which struggles to produce a stable democracy, Ukraine is poised to become a shining example of a strong and viable democratic state. Upon establishment of its independence in 1991, Ukraine moved to-

wards becoming a free society through the creation of democratic institutions and a fledgling market economy.

More recently, the Orange Revolution of 2004 showed the Ukrainian people's desire for a more open, free, and prosperous country—for a resolute democracy. Since its independence, Ukraine has been an ally of the United States. The signing of the United States-Ukraine Charter on Strategic Partnership in 2008 expands our already existing cooperation on defense, energy, democratic development, and cultural exchange.

However, obstacles exist which threaten to derail Ukraine's progress. The global financial crisis has taken a harsh toll on the country, causing the government to seek international assistance. Ukraine must take the difficult internal steps necessary to maintain her financial independence, to ensure that she is not beholden to outside financial institutions and interests.

It is imperative to the future of Ukraine that this month's elections be free, fair, and transparent. Without elections that accurately express the will of the people, Ukraine's democracy cannot, and will not, achieve its full potential.

Given the determination of Ukraine to maintain itself as a democratic nation, it is more important now than ever for the United States to support Ukraine's continued political and economic development.

We stand by Ukraine as she continues her endeavor to become a standard bearer for democracy. In strong support of Ukraine and her people, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this resolution.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the importance of continued political and economic development in Ukraine. The United States-Ukraine Charter on Strategic Partnership, signed in December 2008 by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, signifies the strong relationship between the United States and Ukraine. We continue to support the expanding cooperation on defense, trade, energy, democratic development, and cultural exchange.

During the IX Lvov International Economic Forum, international experts noted Ukraine's strong areas and the areas that are worth working on. Areas of strength include the market's scope, the system of higher education, macroeconomic stability, and effectiveness of the job market. The following drawbacks, however, were noted: lack of preparedness for the introduction of new technologies, the financial sector, the instability of government institutions and the country's policies as a whole, and the ineffectiveness of the commodities market.

Ukrainians have a strong presence in Chicago and have greatly contributed to the city. There are almost 14,000 Ukrainians living within city limits and more than 45,000 Ukrainians living within the greater Chicago metropolitan area. The core Ukrainian neighborhood in the city is known as Chicago's "Ukrainian Village." Even though Ukrainian Chicago extends far beyond the Ukrainian Village, this area continues to function as its hub with three major Ukrainian churches, two Ukrainian banks, a Ukrainian grammar school, the Ukrainian National Museum, a Ukrainian Cultural Center, two Ukrainian youth organizations, and many Ukrainian restaurants, stores and businesses.

I am honored to represent such a diverse and multi-cultured congressional district, and I

continue to welcome the people of the Ukrainian Village and honor them for their continued service and dedication to Chicago.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 981, supporting continued political and economic development in Ukraine.

It has been 18 years since Ukraine joined the family of free and independent nations, much of that due to the commitment shown by the people of Ukrainian heritage living throughout the world including those in Southeast Michigan.

And today, Ukraine is a great friend and ally of the United States and a model for nations who made the transformation from tyranny to freedom. They have been stalwart partners in the War on Terror—sending troops to support International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The U.S.-based human rights watchdog Freedom House designated Ukraine as a free country for the fourth consecutive year in its 2010 Freedom in the World survey. It is all the more encouraging because according to Freedom House, 2009 marked the fourth consecutive year in which global freedom suffered a decline.

It is time that we gave the people of Ukraine the recognition they deserve for their exemplary economic progress and continued democratic ambitions, especially as their presidential elections approach next week.

The Ukrainian people bravely demonstrated their desire for a free, democratic, and prosperous country through nonviolent protest during the 2004 Orange Revolution and this year's election is a testament to the enduring strength of the Ukrainian democracy. It is my sincere hope that the elections are conducted in a fair, free and transparent manner.

The Ukrainian population in Southeast Michigan is one of the largest—if not the largest, in the nation. These Ukrainian Americans are great citizens and great Patriots, and for years Ukrainians fought against Soviet oppression on behalf of freedom, so it is my honor to serve the 10th Congressional District and the Ukrainian-Americans who live there; and this Nation is proud to call Ukraine and her people friends and allies.

A strong, sovereign, independent, democratic, and economically prosperous Ukraine is important to the interests of the United States and to achieving peace, prosperity and stability in Europe, so I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 981, which supports the continued political and economic development in Ukraine. This important resolution represents another step in our continued efforts to support the Ukrainian people in their efforts to fully integrate into the Euro-Atlantic community of democratic nations.

On January 17th, Ukraine will hold its presidential election with a subsequent run-off held on February 7th. This election represents a critical moment not only for Ukraine, but for the region as a whole. As Ukraine continues along the path of economic and political integration, it is my hope that the presidential election will be conducted in a free, fair, and transparent manner.

As a co-chair of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, I believe it is important to encourage closer ties between the United States and Ukraine. This relationship must be one that is

continually fostered and strengthened, both politically and economically. By expressing our support for free and democratic elections, Congress can assist the Ukrainian people in their efforts to join the larger Euro-Atlantic community of democratic nations.

I would like to thank the Chairman and Ranking Member for their continued support of legislation aimed at strengthening the ties of the United States with a key ally in Eastern Europe and encouraging fair and democratic elections. In light of the recent economic struggles of Ukraine, our support and continued friendship is critical.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H. Res. 981 and in favor of continued friendship and support for Ukraine and the Ukrainian people in their efforts to fully integrate into the Euro-Atlantic community of democratic nations.

□ 1100

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. TANNER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 981.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONGRATULATING MARK INGRAM ON WINNING THE 2009 HEISMAN TROPHY

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 970) congratulating Flint native, University of Alabama sophomore, and running back Mark Ingram on winning the 2009 Heisman Trophy and honoring both his athletic and academic achievements.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 970

Whereas Mark Ingram was raised in Flint, Michigan;

Whereas Mark Ingram attended Grand Blanc Community High School and Flint Southwestern Academy, where he distinguished himself as a running back and cornerback;

Whereas Mark Ingram was a 4-year starter in high school, and rushed for 4,926 yards and 58 touchdowns in his final 2 seasons;

Whereas, during his high school football career, Mark Ingram was honored with the Saginaw Valley MVP Award, named Area Player of the Year, and was an All-State selection;

Whereas, in 2009, Mark Ingram led the University of Alabama to the Southeastern Conference (SEC) Championship and rushed 113 yards and scored 3 touchdowns in the championship game;

Whereas, in 2009, Mark Ingram broke the University of Alabama single-season rushing record with 1,542 yards, was named the SEC offensive player of the year, scored 18 total touchdowns, and finished the season with 322 receiving yards;

Whereas, in 2009, Mark Ingram was named an All SEC First Team Selection, a Walter Camp 1st team All-American, and an American Football Coaches Association All-American;

Whereas Mark Ingram is the first Heisman Trophy winner from the University of Alabama;

Whereas Mark Ingram is only the third sophomore in history to win the Heisman Trophy;

Whereas Mark Ingram has made the Dean's List at the University of Alabama;

Whereas Mark Ingram's Heisman win brings tremendous pride to his hometown of Flint, Michigan;

Whereas, December 12, 2009, has been declared Mark Ingram Day in the City of Flint;

Whereas the sport of football is an important national pastime that helps foster teamwork, leadership skills, sportsmanship, and camaraderie; and

Whereas football can help build self-esteem and promote exercise and a more active and healthy lifestyle: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives congratulate Flint native and running back Mark Ingram on winning the 2009 Heisman Trophy and honors both his athletic and academic achievements.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) and the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous material on H. Res. 970 into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of House Resolution 970, honoring Mark Ingram, 2009 Heisman Trophy winner and pride of my hometown, Flint, Michigan.

Madam Speaker, with an unemployment rate of close to 30 percent, Flint has been going through some tough times. Our young people need a role model they can look up to, someone who can show them that through hard work and perseverance their dreams are within reach and that greatness can be achieved.

Madam Speaker, Mark Ingram is that inspiration for our community. Since he began his football career in Grand Blanc Community High School and Flint Southwestern Academy where he was a 4-year starter and distinguished himself as a running back and a cornerback, he has continuously excelled.

This season, Mark broke the University of Alabama single season rushing record with 1,542 yards, was named the Southeastern Conference offensive player of the year, scored 18 touchdowns and finished one season with 322 receiving yards. He led his team to the SEC championship, rushing for 113 yards and scoring three touchdowns in the championship game.